

BRAC-133 Ad Hoc Committee Meeting
July 1, 2010, 5:00-7:00pm
City Council Workroom

Members Present:

Kerry Donley
Abi Lerner
Jim Turkel
Paul McMahon
Dave Dexter
Donna Fossum
Don Buch

1. Changes to the draft minutes from the June 23rd meeting were made and agreed upon.
2. Discussion of the Transportation Commission public hearing discussion was added to the agenda.
3. City stated that the goal for determination of the workplan addressing establishment of a residential parking district is the fall.
4. Abi reported that transit staff has met with WMATA. They confirmed that the numbers in the supplied chart are correct in terms of cost. Staff will continue to meet with WMATA.
5. Abi reported that City staff held a meeting with DoD, WHS, and consultants to go through and verbally respond to staff comments. Some comments Army concurred, and some were reviewed but will not be pursued further, for example paid parking. Jim confirmed that no law prohibits paid parking, but it is a policy issue, and policy makers would have to decide to go forward with the issue. Dave pointed out that Mark Center was supposed to have a market rate policy, but with a buy-out option for transit or open space in SUPs, which gave neighborhoods some comfort. It was agreed that there needs to be a definitive statement to put the issue to rest. The Army has reviewed the matter and firmly decided that DoD will not be charging personnel for parking.
6. It was decided that continuing discussions would be held at the next Ad Hoc meeting concerning transit extensions from Southern Towers.
7. Paul said that the Army is actively pursuing shuttle service to Franconia/Springfield and will include that service in the TMP. He stated that it will not change the overall "rail" mode share, but will change the King Street shuttle numbers. Although headways won't change, smaller bus sizes will be needed. Jim reiterated that the TMP is planning for excess capacity on shuttles. Abi said that expanding shuttle service will help to get to 23% transit usage.
8. Paul reviewed the proposed changes to the shuttle service, including removing East Falls Church metro station as a shuttle stop and discussing extension of the existing National Guard bus from Ballston. Paul reviewed the decision for choosing the shuttle stops. Kerry stated that giving people choices of shuttle stop locations encourages use of transit and reduces demand at King Street Metro station. The

- reduction at the station gives the city ability to alleviate concerns of additional traffic on certain Alexandria streets. It should also be noted that the Washington Headquarters Service is planning to stagger the move-in of the 24 agencies.
9. Abi explained that DASH service on Janney's Lane does not affect residents in the same capacity as Army shuttles since DASH provides service to public as well as the BRAC-133 employees.
 10. The group discussed whether the estimated time for the round trip for the King Street shuttle is reasonable given traffic congestion. WHS agreed to review trip times for all proposed shuttle routes. Kerry voiced concern regarding the number of buses needed for ten minute headways. Paul agreed that headways and the number of buses will have to be watched. Paul clarified that if King Street is served by shuttles, the Army will lease as many buses as needed, but WHS is still looking at whether shuttles or DASH will be used. The determination of who will be the actual service provider(s) is still pending and all agree that this is an important decision in terms of planning and implementation. If DASH is a shuttle provider, discussions need to occur regarding capacity from a fleet and operational perspective. Staff will meet with DASH about its fleet and operations and discuss the ability to provide the service. The Army will confirm how the logistics of using DASH instead of shuttles would occur (i.e. MOU).
 11. Paul said that the Army will focus on the quickest route when determining shuttle routes. Jim clarified that if DASH is used, there will have to be adequate provision for express service so as to serve the objectives of the TMP. The specifics of existing transit service providers becoming the DoD shuttle service providers will have to be worked out.
 12. The Army will talk to WMATA about transit service from other metro stations.
 13. Staff will look at the number of buses needed and headways.
 14. WHS will supply written responses to all previously submitted TMP comments by July 23rd. The comments will be provided electronically to the public. WHS will supply staff comments by July 6th, and staff will distribute them ASAP.
 15. The Ad Hoc Committee is satisfied that the Army will commit to a multi-staffed transit store which will be open during core hours, will operate for the length of time needed, and will establish a Transportation Coordinator function which will be in place nine months in advance of the relocation of employees.
 16. Paul clarified that contractors would be eligible to use the shuttles.
 17. Paul said the project schedule is ongoing and a draft may be available in 60 days.
 18. Abi stated that an outstanding issue is whether the buses serving Southern Towers will also be routed to Mark Center, which is linked to whether WMATA uses shuttles or DASH buses. He stated that proper scheduling would allow the Route 7 bus to come in to Mark Center from Southern Towers. Jim suggested that Paul should have a conversation with WMATA about whether or not shuttles or Metrobuses are used.
 19. Dave suggested a pedestrian bridge or tunnel for a safe pedestrian crossing from Southern Towers. Kerry agrees that the group should continue this discussion and bring up the idea with the mayor. The issue should also be put on the agenda for discussion with VDOT.

20. Abi said that the ATI and AT2 should be part of the service to King Street station. The VDOT study for short-term projects will be out in 6 months, and the study for long-term projects will be out in 9 months. Jim said that they are committed to moving VDOT along. Abi said that staff understands the need to move on the short-term projects.
21. For the Transportation Commission Public Hearing, staff will give a short presentation, WHS/DoD will give an update on progress made since the release of the draft TMP (consideration of Franconia/Springfield for shuttles, 10 minute headways for shuttles, the confirmation of availability of the Transportation Coordinator), and then suggestions will be taken from public.
22. Kerry asked that an agenda item be included at future meetings concerning changes to the TMP, either upgrades in services or reductions. He felt we need a clear understanding of how changes will be evaluated and approved and how the City will be involved in those discussions. Kerry suggested that an MOU be drafted which will outline a process for changes to the TMP.
23. The next meeting was tentatively set for July 15th, 5-7pm.
24. Abi asked Paul to check on when a simplified project schedule could be available.
25. The meeting was adjourned.

Action Items:

Army

1. Army will talk to WMATA about transit service from other metro stations.
2. The Army will confirm how the logistics of using DASH instead of shuttles would occur (i.e. MOU).
3. WHS will supply written responses to all comments by July 23rd.
4. Paul will check on when a simplified project schedule could be available.

City Staff

1. Staff will meet with DASH about its fleet and operations and discuss the ability to provide service from the King Street station at the necessary headways.
2. Staff will look at the number of buses needed for the headways.